

Application No. 10/032,336

REMARKS

1. Claim Status

Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled.

Claims 7-9 are pending. These claims are also currently amended.

Claim 10 is pending.

Claims 11-12 have been cancelled.

Claims 13-15 are pending. Claim 15 is currently amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Claim 16 is pending. This claim is also currently amended.

Claims 17-19 are pending.

Claims 20-23 are pending. These claims are also currently amended.

Claims 24-28 are pending.

Claims 29-32 are newly added claims.

2. Allowed Claims 15, 17-19, 23/15, 23/19

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 15, 17-19, 23/15, 23/19.

3. Drawing Amendments

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the grounds that they do not include a reference to the number "4," which corresponds to a button row. (See Specification, p. 3, line 20. The figures have been amended to include reference to the number "4." Specifically, the number "4" appears immediately adjacent to the row of buttons shown in amended Figures 1-4.

Application No. 10/032,336

Copies of replacement Figures 1-4 are enclosed herewith. The amendments to the figures introduce no new matter.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that a window treatment having "a row of loops and three rows of buttons must be shown or these features are to be cancelled from the claims."

In response to the Examiner's objection, applicants have added new Figure 4. A copy of Figure 4 is accompanied with Replacement Figures 1-4, enclosed herewith. New Figure 4 shows an alternative embodiment comprising a row of loops and three rows of buttons. Written support for such an embodiment can be found in the specification as follows:

- Page 4, lines 23-29
- Page 4, line 37 to page 5 line 3
- Original claim 6

In adding new Figure 4, applicants have amended the specification. Specifically, applicants have amended the "Brief Description of the Drawings" to make reference to Figure 4. Also, the Specification has been amended to include the text of original claim 6. (See Specification Amendments herein at pages 16-17.) These amendments introduce no new matter.

4. Examiner's Rejection of Claims 7-14, 16, 20-22, 23/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/20, 23/21, and 24-28 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 7-14, 16, 20-22, 23/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/20, 23/21, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. The Examiner indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections. As explained below, applicants submit the claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections, and consequently such claims are now allowable.

Application No. 10/032,336

Claims 7 and 8

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 on the grounds that neither claim positively recites "the row of loops" or "the row of buttons," respectively. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended such that the "a row of loops" and "a row of buttons", respectively, are positively recited as claim elements in part (ii) of each claim. Further, Claim 7, Section (vi), has been amended to correct a typographical error. Likewise, the preamble of Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The above amendments introduce no new matter.

Claims 9, 16, 20, 21 and 22

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 16, 20, 21 and 22 for having no antecedent basis for certain claim elements. In response to the Examiner's rejection, claim 9 has been amended to recite "row of loops" instead of "rows of loops" at lines 5-6, 10 and 20. Claim 16 has been amended to remove the phrase "at least one" from the phrase "at least one row of buttons" at lines 1-2. Claim 20 has been amended to remove the phrase "at least one" from the phrase "the at least one row of loops" at lines 10 and 13. Here, the claim recites "three rows of loops" and each row of loops," respectively. Claim 21 has been amended to remove the word "one" from the phrase "the one row of loops" at lines 20-21. Claim 22 has been amended to remove the phrase "at least one" from the phrase "the at least one row of buttons" at lines 1-2.

Claims 11 and 12, and New Claims 29 to 31

The Examiner rejected dependent claims 11 and 12 as indefinite for reciting a range beyond that range recited in their respective independent claims. Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 29 to 31. New claims 29 to 31 are claims 11 and 12 rewritten in independent form. The new claims do not enlarge the scope of claims 11 and 12. Further, the amendments introduce no new matter.

Application No. 10/032,336

Claim 14 depends from claim 12. Since claim 12 has been cancelled, claim 14 has been amended so that it depends from claim 8, instead of claim 12. The amendment introduces no new matter, nor enlarges the scope of claim 8.

Claims 23/7, 23/8 and 23/9

Claims 23/7, 23/8, and 23/9 have been rejected for doubly reciting the claim element "a tab top suspending sleeve." Multiple dependent claim 23 has been amended so that it no longer depends from claims 7, 8 and 9. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendment overcomes the Examiner's rejection of claim 23. Applicants have added new multiple dependent claim 32, which narrows the scope of claims 7, 8 and 9 by specifying that the "suspending sleeve" is a "tab top." The amendment does not enlarge the scope of claim 23. New claim 32 introduces no new matter.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7-14, 16, 20-22, 23/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/20, 23/21, and 24-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended to correct the deficiencies identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, the above-mentioned claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15

Claim 15, section (iv) has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Application No. 10/032,336

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 7-14, 16, 20-22, 23/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/20, 23/21, 24-28 are in condition for allowance.

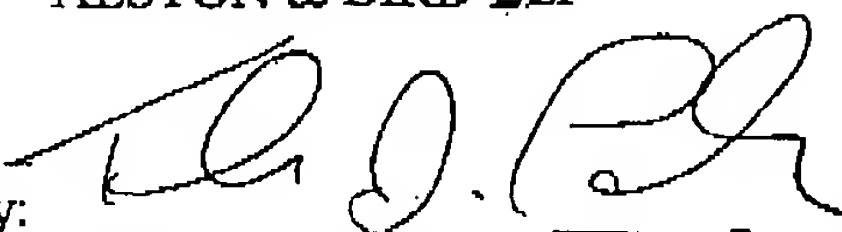
The Examiner has allowed claims 15, 17-19, 23/15 and 23/19.

Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the above-pending claims as soon as practical.

Respectfully submitted,

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Date: 7/27/04

By: 

Thomas J. Parker
Reg. No. 62,042
90 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016
Tel: (212) 210-9529

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Jodi R. Titus et. al.
Application No. : 10/032,336
Filed : December 21, 2001
Title : **Window Treatment Panels**
Group/Unit : 3634
Examiner : David M. Purol
Atty Ref. No. : 048775/277064

REPLACEMENT FIGURES 1-4

NYC01/7737553v1